

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----116179 012208Z /14

R 301343Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9221

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, SHUM, NI

SUBJECT: COMMUNALISM IN NORTH

REF: (A) KADUNA 672, (B) LAGOS A-68, (C) LAGOS 7142

1. IN AN EFFORT TO GATHER EVIDENCE OF TRIBAL RIVALRIES AND CIVIL UNREST IN THE NORTHEAST AS REPROTED IN REFTELS. ECONOMIC SECTION HAS BEGUN TO QUERY U.S. FIRMS CARRYING, OUT PROJECTS IN THAT AREA. DIRECTOR OF TCOM/WESTINGHOUSE, THE FIRST COMPANY APPROACHED, HAS CONFIRMED THAT TROUBLE EXISTS AND IS CONTINUING.

2. ACCORDING TO TCOM DIRECTOR DAVE MILLER, OVER 20 OF HIS SKILLED IBO EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE LEFT THE JOB SITE OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS BASE WHICH THE COMPANY IS BUILDING. THE DEPARTEES QTE FLED UNQTE BECAUSE OF HARASSMENT AND OPEN INTIMIDATION BY MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL POPULACE. UNIDENTIFIED GANGS REPORTEDLY CAME TO WORKERS' HOMES DURING THE NIGHT. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE BUT THE MESSAGE WAS CLEARLY GIVEN THAT THE WORKERS WERE OUTSIDERS WHO QTE DID NOT BELONG UNQTE AND SHOULD LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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3. COMMENT: ESPECIALLY WORRISOME IS THE INDICATION THAT ANTAGONISMS ARE CONTINUING. THE SITUATION HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN SOLVED BY THE INTERVENTION OF THE SHEHU OF BORNO IN MAIDURGURI. IN ADDITION TO THE UGLY POLITICAL-SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROBLEM, THERE IS ALSO THE NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT. THE PROGRESS OF THE TCOM PROJECT HAS DEFINITELY BEEN

HURT BY THE LOSS OF ITS SKILLED WORKERS, THE TYPE
OF PERSONNEL NOT EASILY REPLACED IN THE NORTH.
COMPANIES FEAR THAT AS THE WORD SPREADS ABOUT THE
DISTURBANCES, CADRES FROM THE SOUTH WILL NO LONGER
ACCEPT JOBS FOR WORK IN THE NORTH THUS FRUSTRATING
PROGRESS ON VARIOUS JOBS. GIVEN THE HASTE TO
COMPLETE CONTRACTS BEFORE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE,
THE CONSEQUENT SLOWDOWN IN PROJECT COMPLETIONS
FURTHER PROMISES TO SOUR RELATIONS BETWEEN CONTRACTING
COMPANIES AND STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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